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BOOK REVIEWS

THE STUDIO YEAR BOOK OF DECORATIVE ART, 1916. A review of the latest developments in the artistic construction, decoration and furnishing of the house. John Lane Company, New York, Publishers. Price, cloth \$3.00 net.

This is by all means one of the most interesting publications of the year, dealing with contemporary work not only in England and the United States, but in Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. The volume opens with a most admirable and interesting article by Sydney R. Jones on Cottage Interiors and Decoration—an article which deserves and will reward wide and careful reading. Especially to those who are contemplating the erection of summer homes or moderate priced urban dwellings is it commended. Despite the war, building in England continues although obviously activity along these lines has in the past two years been greatly restricted. Attention is called to the increasing thought English architects are giving to open air rooms, either in the form of a complete compartment open on the south side, a loggia or a veranda—a new development in English domestic architecture. The chapter on Domestic Architecture in Canada is contributed by F. S. Baker, F. R. I. B. A., who gives a most interesting and alluring description of the typical Canadian home which he explains differs very little whether built in town or out. From Mr. Baker's descriptions and from the illustrations which are given the Canadian home would seem to be characterized by the same air of comfortableness which typifies the private dwellings in England. The large welcoming entrance and the main hall are features, he says, of these Canadian dwellings. Two examples are given of beautiful entrance gates. It is worth noting that Mr. Baker's remarks "in Canada it is much more difficult to obtain good pictures than good furniture"—a condition which with the help of the Canadian artists and Art Societies ought to be easily remedied. Of unique interest are the chapters on the domestic architecture of South Africa by Arthur H. Reid, F. R. I. B. A., and of New Zealand by F. de J. Clere, F. R. I. B. A., as these are

quarters of the world comparatively unfamiliar to the average American reader. The architecture is of a peculiarly interesting character differing widely from that of England or America, yet combining as it were an element both English and Dutch. The domestic architecture of New Zealand is of a less distinctive character although influenced quite evidently by the limitations of materials and the peculiarities of the climate. The chapter on Architecture and Decoration in the United States has been contributed by Alfred Yockney, presumably an Englishman, and has been written obviously for English readers. It is interesting to get this point of view, and to have called to our attention certain works which have perhaps passed among us too long unnoticed. The illustrations are largely drawn from the works of Philadelphia architects. Excellent examples of decorative work have been collected and are also given.

CERTAIN CONTEMPORARIES, NOTES AND ART CRITICISMS. BY A. E. GALLATIN. John Lane Company, New York, Publishers. Price \$3.00 net.

Mr. Gallatin's style is most finished and his point of view delightfully individual, therefore each new volume which bears his signature is a welcome addition to our American literature on Art. The present book contains several essays previously published in contemporary magazines, those on Glackens and Gay appeared originally in *THE AMERICAN MAGAZINE OF ART*. There are others on Sloan, Lawson and Boardman Robinson as well as two very interesting chapters on "Some Masters in Water Color" and "The Salon des Humoristes." These are all intimate personal reflections made thoughtfully and by one of keen perception and exceptional gift. The reader does not always agree with the writer nor does the latter invariably agree with himself, but after all this enhances rather than diminishes the interest. There is nothing trivial about Mr. Gallatin's criticisms nor does he try to impose his opinion upon others, but such comment as he makes, whether adverse or favorable, is invariably friendly. It is this kind of criticism which is most stimulating and at the same time most rare.